



Accreditation Requirements for Verifiers and Verification Bodies in California's Mandatory GHG Reporting Program

Who can conduct verification services for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data reports under California's regulation for the mandatory reporting of GHG emissions?

- ◆ Only ARB-accredited verifiers can provide verification services for reporters subject to mandatory reporting. Verifiers are subject to specific requirements that include pre-screening for education and professional experience and training under an ARB approved curriculum. Verifiers will work in teams, under the auspices of accredited verification bodies.
- ◆ Verification bodies -- companies and air districts that meet specific accreditation requirements and employ or contract with accredited verifiers -- will submit verification opinions to ARB.

What is the process for individual verifier accreditation?

- ◆ Section 95132 of the mandatory reporting regulation establishes an accreditation application processes for lead, general and sector specific verifiers.
- ◆ Each applicant provides the required documentation of education and professional experience as part of the application process.
- ◆ Each applicant must complete ARB approved verification training and pass an exit exam.

Do verifiers accredited under other programs (e.g., ANSI) need to be separately accredited to verify emissions reports for ARB?

- ◆ Only ARB-accredited verifiers can provide verification services for reporters subject to mandatory reporting in California. Applicants are subject to specific requirements that include pre-screening for education and professional experience and training under an ARB approved curriculum.
- ◆ California's regulation allows lead verifiers with demonstrated professional experience to be 'grandfathered' as lead verifiers into ARB's program. This includes lead verifiers in good standing with the California Climate Action Registry, United Kingdom Accreditation System, or another organization certifying personnel consistent with the requirements of ISO 14065 or 19011, provided the individual had performed at least three verifications by December 31, 2007.
- ◆ Applicants with specified project management experience in emissions inventories or environmental data auditing may also qualify.
- ◆ All applicants must complete ARB approved verification training and pass an exit exam.

What are sector specific verifiers and how are they accredited?

- ◆ In addition to general and lead verifiers, ARB will accredit specialists for refineries, cement plants, and electricity transactions. Reporters in these sectors have high emissions,

rigorous fuel test requirements, or contractual arrangements and sales and purchase complexities that require verifiers to have special knowledge.

- ◆ ARB will offer sector specific training in addition to general verification training.

What are the requirements to become an accredited verification body?

A company qualified to provide verification services and verification opinions to ARB must meet the following requirements for accreditation:

- ◆ At least five full-time staff members, including two ARB-accredited lead verifiers;
- ◆ Documentation that the company carries a minimum of one million U.S. dollars of professional liability insurance;
- ◆ Demonstration that the company has mechanisms in place to prevent conflicts of interest;
- ◆ Demonstration that the company has procedures or policies to support technical training related to verification; and
- ◆ Disclosure of any judicial proceedings filed against the company in the last five years.

Can a verification body subcontract verification services?

The regulation allows verification bodies to subcontract verification services. The following requirements apply:

- ◆ All subcontractors must be accredited by ARB to perform verification services for reporters subject to mandatory reporting;
- ◆ The verification body assumes full responsibility for the verification services performed by subcontracted verifiers or verification bodies;
- ◆ Subcontracting may not be used to meet the minimum staff total or lead verifier requirements for verification body accreditation;
- ◆ A subcontractor may not further subcontract or outsource verification services for an operator;
- ◆ A verification body is responsible for demonstrating an acceptable level of conflict of interest for all subcontractors that it uses.

Can air districts be accredited to provide verification services for reporters subject to mandatory reporting?

Air pollution control districts and air quality management districts may also apply and be qualified to provide verification services. Districts must meet the following requirements for accreditation:

- ◆ Maintain two ARB-accredited lead verifiers on staff;
- ◆ Demonstrate that the District has policies and mechanisms in place to prevent conflicts of interest and resolve potential conflict of interest situations if they arise; and
- ◆ Demonstrate that the District has procedures or policies to support technical training related to verification.